

I. Amendment to the Specification

Please replace paragraph 0028 with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] The outer cannula may be covered with a thin adherent plastic covering, in order to aid the physician in placing the extractor. The covering is desirably a medical grade plastic material, such as Teflon® (PTFE) or other grade of plastic or fluoropolymer. These may include FEP, fluorinated ethylene propylene, PFA, perfluoroalkoxy polymer, and other medically acceptable grades of thermoplastic or thermoset coatings. The covering is desirably thin, preferably about 0.10 to about 0.4 mm thick (about 0.004 to about 0.015 inches thick). Figs. 4a and 4b depict an outer cannula 12 and a thin plastic covering 14 121 on the outer diameter of the cannula.

Please replace paragraph 0051 with the following amended paragraph:

[0051] Other techniques may also be used, as shown in Fig. 19, to join wires 207 by using solder joints 209, braze joints, or weld joints, thus joining the wires to form a distal end of the basket. As shown in Fig. 20, it is even possible to drill holes 212 and use a rivet 213 to join the distal ends of wires 211, to form a distal end of the basket. The rivet embodiment is better accomplished with flat wire than with round wire. Other embodiments, as shown in Fig. 21, may use a small elastomeric or plastic fastener or ball 223 to join the distal ends of wires 221 to form a distal end of a basket useful in the rigid extractor embodiments of the present invention.